



REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding nonfinal Office Action mailed August 29, 2001. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

1. Present Status of Patent Application

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1-6, 10-19 and 23-48 remain pending in the present application. More specifically, claims 1, 15 and 26 are directly amended; claims 7-9 and 20-22 are canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer; and claims 27-48 are withdrawn from consideration. These amendments are specifically described hereinafter. It is believed that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the present application.

2. Miscellaneous Issues

Applicants hereby affirm the election with traverse of Group 1, claims 1-26. Thus, claims 27-48 are withdrawn from further consideration.

Claims 7-9 and 20-22 are canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants take this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the canceled subject matter to the public.

3. Response To Rejections

Response To Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 26 has been rejected Under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite because all of the recited fibers are optional and the claim language is open (*i.e.*, "comprising"). Without addressing the veracity of this assertion, Applicants have amended claim 26 to read that the nonwoven scrim comprises "at least one of: melamine fibers, para-aramid fibers, meta-aramid fibers, and polybenzimidazole

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fibers, wherein at least one of the fibers of the scrim comprises up to approximately 95% by weight of the scrim....”

Applicant wishes to clarify that the foregoing amendment has been made for purposes of better defining the invention in response to the rejections made under 35 U.S.C. §112, and not in response to the rejections made based on prior art. Indeed, Applicants submit that no substantive limitations have been added to the claims. Therefore, no prosecution history estoppel arises from this amendment. *Black & Decker, Inc. v. Hoover Serv. Ctr.*, 886 F.2d 1285, 1295 n. 13 (Fed. Cir. 1989); *Andrew Corp. v. Gabriel Elecs., Inc.*, 847 F.2d 819 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *Hi-Life Prods. Inc. v. Am. Nat'l. Water-Mattress Corp.*, 842 F.2d 323, 325 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *Mannesmann Demag Corp. v. Eng'd. Metal Prods. Co., Inc.*, 793 F.2d 1279, 1284-1285 (Fed. Cir. 1986); *Moeller v. Ionetics, Inc.*, 794 F.2d 653 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 26 be withdrawn.

Response To Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Section 102

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 11 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Bailey *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,943,465). Applicants have cancelled claim 7 without prejudice, waiver or disclaimer, and thus rejection of this claim has been rendered moot.

For a proper rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b), the cited reference must disclose all elements/features of the claim. See, *e.g.*, *E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. v. Phillips Petroleum Co.*, 849 F.2d 1430, 7 USPQ2d 1129 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Independent claims 1 and 26, as amended, recite the features of a fire-blocking fabric that comprises a nonwoven scrim and a plurality of flame resistant fibers entangled to and with one side of the scrim via at least one of the following: needlepunching, hydroentanglement, and chemical bonding.

Independent claims 1 and 26 are allowable for at least the reason that Bailey *et al.* do not disclose, teach, or suggest these features of claims 1 and 26. More specifically, the composite of Bailey *et al.* differs from these features in many ways. First, Bailey *et al.* teach a *composite* of paper and scrim, with the scrim being disposed on both sides of the

paper and mechanically locked to the paper by high temperature resistant threads. In contrast, the present invention is not a composite, but is instead a *fabric*. The textile industry has its own nomenclature, with different words having precise meanings in the textile art. According to the Dictionary of Fiber & Textile Technology, Hoechst Celanese Corporation, 1999 (copies of all definitions are attached hereto as Exhibit "A"), the definition of a composite is "an article or substance of two or more constituents, generally, with reinforcing elements dispersed in a matrix or continuance phase;... or a structure made by laminating a nonwoven fabric with another nonwoven or with other materials." The definition for a fabric, however, is "a planar textile structure produced by interlacing yarns, fibers, or filaments." Thus, a composite differs from a fabric in both composition, and in method of production. The composite formed by Bailey et al. may be flexible, but is not the flexible fabric of the present invention that may be incorporated into garments.

Additionally, Bailey et al. provide that the scrim must be placed on *both* sides of the paper, and therefore needlepunching *must be* from both sides of the paper or, after needlepunching a scrim on one side, the paper is reversed and another scrim is needlepunched on the other side. *See* column 6, lines 7-23. In contrast, the flame resistant fibers of the present invention may be entangled to and with the scrim on one side only, as claimed in claims 1 and 26. Thus, the present invention as claimed does not require the double-reinforcement that is necessary in Bailey et al.

With respect to the material that is entangled with the scrim, Bailey et al. use high temperature resistant *threads*, whereas the present invention uses flame resistant *fibers*. Again, the definition of a thread differs from that of a fiber. A thread is defined by the aforementioned dictionary as "a slender, strong strand or cord. Most threads are made by plying and twisting yarns." A fiber, however, is defined as "a unit of matter that forms the *basic element* of fabrics and other textile structures." (Emphasis added.) Therefore, Bailey et al. require a thicker high temperature resistant material, *i.e.* a thread, to accomplish its purpose. The present invention, in contrast, includes only fibers, a thinner and more basic structure, entangled to and with the nonwoven scrim.

Further, the Examiner equates the high temperature resistant thread of Bailey et al. with the flame resistant fibers of the present invention. It does not necessarily follow that a

high-temperature resistant thread is equal to a flame resistant fiber because the flame resistant fiber, as defined by the above-referenced Dictionary, is a fiber that “burns slowly or is self-extinguishing after removal from an external source of ignition.” Nothing in the Bailey et al. reference indicates that its high temperature resistant threads are able to accomplish *flame resistance*.

Thus, for at least these reasons, Bailey et al. do not anticipate claims 1 and 26, and the claim rejections should be withdrawn.

Because independent claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record, its dependent claims 2, 4-7 and 11 are allowable as a matter of law, because these dependent claims contain all features/elements of their respective independent claim 1. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Additionally and notwithstanding the foregoing reasons for the allowability of claim 1, these dependent claims recite further features and/or combinations of features, as is apparent by examination of the claims themselves, that are patentably distinct from the prior art of record. Hence, there are other reasons why these dependent claims are allowable. For example, claim 4 claims flame resistant fibers that include polybenzimidazole fibers, and melamine fibers. These fibers are not disclosed by Bailey et al. Thus, for at least this reason as well, claim 4 is not anticipated by Bailey et al.

Claim 13 has been rejected 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as anticipated by, or, in the alternative, 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as obvious over Bailey et al. The Examiner contends that it is reasonable to presume that satisfying FAA seat burn requirements is inherent to Bailey et al.'s composite. Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion. Because the composite and material of the composite in Bailey et al. is different from the fire-blocking fabric of the present invention, as outlined above, in several different ways, it is not inherent that the fire-blocking characteristic of the present invention would be met by the composite of Bailey et al. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of this claim be withdrawn as well.

Response To Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Section 103

Claims 8, 9 and 21-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over various references. It should be noted that these claims

have been cancelled without prejudice, waiver or disclaimer and thus rejection of these claims has been rendered moot.

Additionally, claims 10, 12 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Bailey et al. Claims 10, 12 and 14 depend from independent claim 1. Independent claim 1 is believed to be allowable over Bailey et al. for at least the reasons set forth above. Thus, claims 10, 12 and 14 should be allowable as well for at least the reason that independent claim 1 is allowable. Additionally, these dependent claims recite further features and/or combinations of features that are patentably distinct from Bailey et al. Thus, there are other reasons why these dependent claims are allowable. For example, claim 10 claims a scrim that comprises approximately 11% to approximately 60% of the fabric by weight. Applicants have discovered that a weight of a scrim within this range increases the resilience and durability of the fire-blocking fabric. Because Bailey et al. does not teach or suggest a fabric, or even a fire-blocking fabric, Bailey et al. do not teach or suggest a scrim within this range that would give the beneficial properties that this range gives a fire-blocking fabric. Thus, for at least this reason as well, the rejection of claim 10 should be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 15-20 and 23-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as purportedly being obvious over Bailey et al. in view of Ilg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,560,990) and Behnke et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,120,914). Claim 20 has been canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. The combination of Bailey et al. in view of Ilg et al. and Behnke et al. with respect to claims 3, 15-19 and 23-25 fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. It is well established at law that, for a proper rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious based upon a combination of references, the cited combination of references must disclose, teach, or suggest, either implicitly or explicitly, all elements/features of the claim at issue. See, e.g., *In re Dow Chem.*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1529, 1531 (Fed. Cir. 1988), and *In re Keller*, 208 U.S.P.Q.2d 871, 881 (C.C.P.A. 1981).

It should be noted that claim 3 is dependent from independent claim 1, which is believed to be allowable in view of Bailey et al., as noted above. Because claim 1 is

allowable, its dependent claim 3 should also be allowable, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Independent claim 15, as amended, recites in part the following:

“A fire-blocking fabric comprising: a nonwoven scrim...; and a plurality of flame resistant fibers that are entangled to and with one side of the nonwoven scrim,... wherein the fibers are entangled to and with the nonwoven scrim via at least one of the following: needlepunching, hydroentanglement, and chemical bonding.”

Independent claim 15 is allowable for at least the reason that the combination of Bailey et al. in view of Ilg et al. and Behnke et al. does not disclose, teach, or suggest the features that are recited from claim 1 above. More specifically, Bailey et al. do not teach or suggest many aspects of the claimed invention such as a fire-blocking material with flame resistant fibers, a fabric end product, the use of fibers instead of threads, and only entangling the fibers with one side of the scrim. Additionally, neither Ilg et al. nor Behnke et al. cure these deficiencies of Bailey et al. In particular, Ilg et al. do not teach a fabric, do not teach entangling fibers to a scrim, and do not teach that the fibers may include polybenzimidazole, all as claimed in claim 15. Further, Behnke et al. do not cure these deficiencies of Bailey et al. and Ilg et al. Specifically, Behnke et al. do not teach a fabric, do not teach entangling fibers to a scrim, and do not teach using flame resistant polybenzimidazole fibers.

Consequently, the combination of Bailey et al. in view of Ilg et al. and Behnke et al. does not render claim 15 obvious, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Because independent claim 15 is allowable over the prior art of record, its dependent claims 16-19 and 23-25 are allowable as a matter of law, for at least the reason that these dependent claims contain all features/elements/steps of their respective independent claim 15. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Additionally and notwithstanding the foregoing allowability of these dependent claims, the dependent claims recite further features and/or combinations of features, as is apparent by examination of the claims themselves, that are patentably distinct from the prior art of record. Hence, there are other reasons why these dependent claims are allowable. For example, claim 16 claims a fabric that satisfies FAA seat burn requirements. Because

Bailey et al. do not teach or suggest the construction of a flame-resistant fabric, much less a fabric constructed as the fabric of the present invention, there is no teaching or suggestion that the composite of Bailey et al. would meet FAA seat burn requirements. Ilg et al. and Behnke et al. also do not teach or suggest such a fabric, and thus do not cure the deficiencies of Bailey et al. Therefore, for at least these reasons also, claim 16 is allowable and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

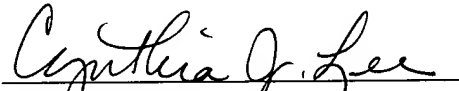


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CONCLUSION

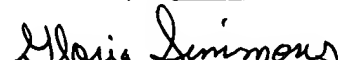
In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1-6, 10-19 and 23-26 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


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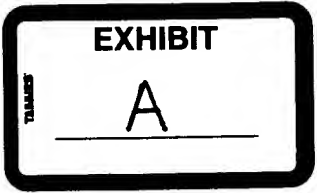
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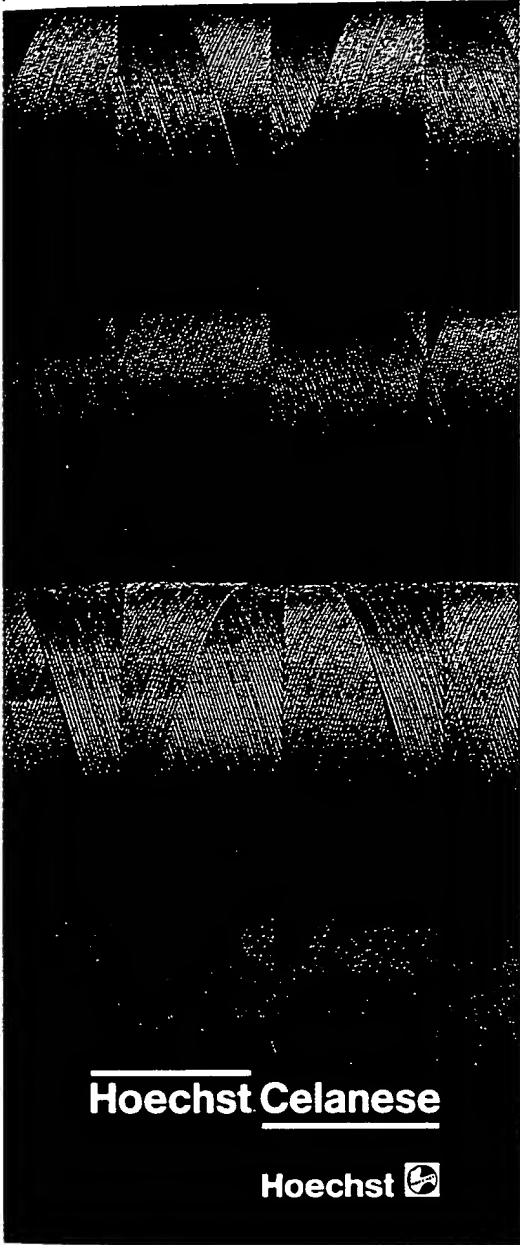
ANNOTATED VERSION OF MODIFIED CLAIMS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, please find below the amended claims in which the inserted language is underlined (“ ”) and the deleted language is enclosed in brackets (“[]”):

- 
1. A fire-blocking fabric comprising:
a nonwoven scrim; and
a plurality of flame resistant fibers entangled to and with the nonwoven scrim on one side of the scrim via at least one of the following: needlepunching, hydroentanglement, and chemical bonding.
 15. A fire-blocking fabric comprising:
a nonwoven scrim comprising approximately 50% melamine fibers, approximately 25% para-aramid fibers, and approximately 25% meta-aramid fibers; and
a plurality of flame resistant fibers that are entangled to and with one side of the nonwoven scrim, the fibers including at least one of aramid fibers, polybenzimidazole fibers, and melamine fibers, wherein the fibers are entangled to and with the nonwoven scrim via at least of the following: needlepunching, hydroentanglement, and chemical bonding.
 26. A fire-blocking fabric comprising:
a nonwoven scrim comprising at least one of:[approximately 0-95% by weight] melamine fibers, [approximately 0-95% by weight] para-aramid fibers, [approximately 0-95% by weight] meta-aramid fibers, and [approximately 0-95% by weight] polybenzimidazole fibers, wherein at least one of the fibers of the scrim comprises up to approximately 95% by weight of the scrim; and
a plurality of flame resistant fibers that are entangled to and with one side of the nonwoven scrim, the fibers including at least one of aramid fibers, polybenzimidazole fibers, and melamine fibers, wherein the fibers are entangled with the scrim via at least one of the following: needlepunching, hydroentanglement, and chemical bonding.



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Dictionary Of Fiber & Textile Technology

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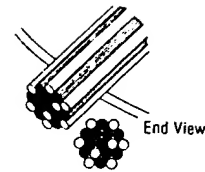
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COMMINGLED YARN: In aerospace textiles, two or more continuous multifilament yarns, the filaments of which have been intermixed with each other without adding twist or otherwise disturbing the parallel relationship of the combined filaments. Usually consists of a reinforcing yarn, such as graphite or glass, and a thermoplastic matrix yarn.



COMPACTED YARNS: Air-jet interlaced yarns. Since the entanglement serves only as a substitute for twist, the degree of interlace or tangle is not as great as in air-jet bulked yarns.

COMPACTION: See INTERMINGLING.

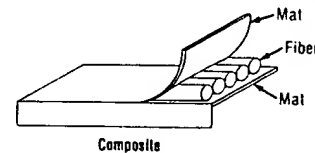
COMPACTOR: A machine developed by Fabric Research Laboratories which is used to compact fabrics or to produce warp-stretch fabrics by means of forced crimp and/or shrinkage of the warp yarn.

COMPACT SPINNING PROCESS: A term generally referring to a spinning process carried out using any one of the several small spinning machines of compact design offered by equipment vendors as "packaged" units in which spinning and subsequent processing (drawing, crimping, cutting, etc.) are linked.

COMPATIBLE SHRINKAGE: A term used for bonded fabrics to indicate that the face fabric and lining have similar shrinkage. This is necessary to avoid puckering.

COMPLIANCE: The ability of a fiber to yield under stress; the ratio of the change in strain to the change in stress that produces it; the reciprocal of the textile modulus.

COMPOSITE: 1. An article or substance of two or more constituents, generally, with reinforcing elements dispersed in a matrix or continuous phase. 2. Hard or soft constructions in which the fibers themselves are consolidated to form structures rather than being formed into yarns. Rigidity of these constructions is controlled by the density, the modulus of the load-bearing fibers, and the fraction of fusible fibers. Strength is controlled by adhesion and shear-yield strength of the matrix unless fibers are bonded in a load-transferring matrix. 3. A structure made by laminating a nonwoven fabric with another nonwoven, with other materials, or by impregnating a nonwoven fabric with resins.



COMPOSITE FIBERS: Fibers composed of two or more polymer types in a sheath-core or side-by-side (bilateral) relation.

COMPRESSIBILITY: Refers to the ease of reducing the bulk of fabric, carpet, batting, or other material. May be high or low, soft or hard.

ETHYLENE GLYCOL: A viscous, sweet, colorless liquid, (CH₂OHCH₂OH). Principal uses are as an intermediate in the manufacture of polyester fibers and as automobile antifreeze.

EVENNESS TESTING: Determination of the variation in weight per unit length and thickness of yarns or fiber aggregates such as roving, sliver, or top.

EXCESSIVE CLEARER WASTE: A higher than normal amount of short and regular fibers that become attached to the drafting rolls and are transferred to the clearer brushes to accumulate in abnormal amounts until they are removed manually.

EXHAUSTION: During wet processing, the ratio at any time between the amount of dye or substance taken up by the substrate and the amount originally available.

EXTENDED LENGTH: The length of a face pile yarn required to produce one inch of tufted carpet.

EXTENSIBILITY: The ability of a material to undergo elongation on the application of force. (Also see ELONGATION.)

EXTRACTABLES: The material that can be removed from textiles by means of a solvent (in many cases, water).

EXTRACTION: Removal of one substance from another, often accomplished by means of a solvent.

EXTRACT PRINTING: See PRINTING, Discharge Printing.

EXTRUDER: 1. Generally a machine in which molten or semisoft materials are forced under pressure through a die to form continuous tubes, sheets, or fibers. It may consist of a barrel, heating elements, a screw, ram or plunger, and a die through which the material is pushed to give it shape. 2. In fiber manufacture the machine that feeds molten polymer to an extrusion manifold or that first melts the polymer in a uniform manner then feeds it to a manifold and associated equipment for extrusion. (Also see SCREW MELTER.)

EXTRUSION: See SPINNING, 2.

EYELET: 1. A series of small holes made to receive a string or tape. A buttonhole stitch is worked around the holes. 2. A type of yarn guide used on a creel. 3. A fabric style with areas of cut-outs surrounded by stitching.

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FABRIC: A planar textile structure produced by interlacing yarns, fibers, or filaments.

FABRIC CONSTRUCTION: The details of structure of fabric. Includes such information as style, width, type of knit or weave, threads per inch in warp and fill, and weight of goods.

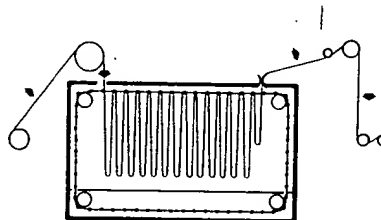
FEEL: See HAND.

FELL: 1. The end of a piece of fabric that is woven last. 2. In weaving, the last filling pick laid in the fabric at any time.

FELT: 1. A nonwoven sheet of matted material of wool, hair, or fur, sometimes in combination with certain manufactured fibers, made by a combination of mechanical and chemical action, pressure, moisture, and heat. 2. A woven fabric generally made from wool, but occasionally from cotton or certain manufactured fibers, that is heavily shrunk and fulled, making it almost impossible to distinguish the weave.

FELTING: 1. The process of exposing wool fibers alone or in combination with other fibers to mechanical and chemical action, pressure, moisture, and heat so that they tangle, shrink, and mat to form a compact material. Felting is generally carried out in a fulling mill. (Also see FULLING.) 2. See NEEDLEPUNCHING and NEEDLED FABRICS.

FESTOON DRYER: A dryer in which cloth is suspended in loops over a series of supporting horizontal poles and carried through the heated chamber in this configuration.



Festoon Drying Machine

FIBER: A unit of matter, either natural or manufactured, that forms the basic element of fabrics and other textile structures. A fiber is characterized by having a length at least 100 times its diameter or width. The term refers to units that can be spun into a yarn or made into a fabric by various methods including weaving, knitting, braiding, felting, and twisting. The essential requirements for fibers to be spun into yarn include a length of at least 5 millimeters, flexibility, cohesiveness, and sufficient strength. Other important properties include elasticity, fineness, uniformity, durability, and luster. (Also see MANUFACTURED FIBER and NATURAL FIBER.)

FIBER ARCHITECTURE: The spatial arrangement of fibers in the preform. Each architecture has a definite repeating unit.

FIBER DISTRIBUTION: In a web, the orientation (random or parallel) of fibers and the uniformity of their arrangement.

FIBERFILL: Manufactured fibers that have been specially engineered for use as filling material for pillows, mattress pads, comforters, sleeping bags, quilted outerwear, etc. Polyester fibers are widely used.

FIBER MIGRATION: See MIGRATION, 2.

FIBER NUMBER: The linear density of a fiber expressed in units such as denier or tex. (Also see FINENESS.)

of fibers through the card, either an uneven amount has been fed into the card, or groups of fibers have hesitated in the card and then dropped back into production.

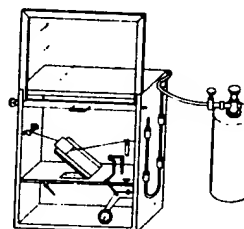
FLAME RESISTANCE TESTS: See FLAMMABILITY TESTS.

FLAME RESISTANT: A term used to describe a material that burns slowly or is self-extinguishing after removal of an external source of ignition. A fabric or yarn can be flame resistant because of the innate properties of the fiber, the twist level of the yarn, the fabric construction, or the presence of flame retardants, or because of a combination of these factors. (Also see FLAME RETARDANT and INHERENT FLAME RESISTANCE.)

FLAME RETARDANT: A chemical compound that can be incorporated into a textile fiber during manufacture or applied to a fiber, fabric, or other textile item during processing or use to reduce its flammability. (Also see FLAME RESISTANT.)

FLAMMABILITY TESTS: Many procedures have been developed for assessing the flame resistance of textiles. The most common currently in use are detailed below:

Diagonal (45°) Flame Test: In this test for flame resistance, a specimen is mounted at a 45° angle and exposed to an open flame for a specific time. This test measures the ease of ignition and rate of burning of the samples.

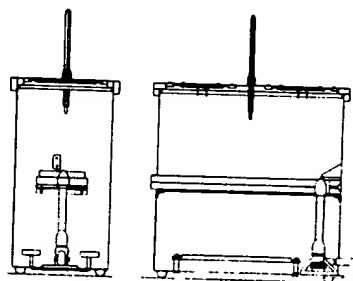


Diagonal Flame Test Apparatus

Horizontal Flame Test: A test for flame resistance in which a specimen is mounted in a horizontal holder and exposed to an open flame for a specific time to measure burning rate and char-hole diameter.

Methenamine Pill Test: A test for the flame resistance of carpets or rugs in which a methenamine tablet is ignited on a test sample under controlled conditions and the size of the burn hole is measured.

Mushroom Apparel Flammability Test: This test method involves igniting a cylinder of fabric around a core containing heat sensors and measuring the rate of heat transfer from the burning material to the sensors.



Horizontal Flame Test Apparatus

Radiant Panel Test: A test for the flammability of carpets or rugs in which the specimen is mounted on the floor of

THERMAL BONDING: See THERMOBONDING.

THERMAL CHARACTER: A tactile property of a textile material. It is the difference felt in the temperature of the material and the skin of the person touching it.

THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY: A measure of heat flow through a material.

THERMAL FIXATION: See DYEING.

THERMALLY STABILIZED: See HEAT STABILIZED.

THERMOBONDING: A technique for bonding fibers of a web with meltable powders or fibers, using infrared heating, hot air, or hot-calendering. (Also see BONDING, Bonding with Binder Fibers and POWDER-BONDED NON-WOVEN.)

THERMOGRAVIMETRIC ANALYSIS: Analytical technique in which the rate of change in weight of a material undergoing continuous heating versus temperature is plotted. Used in analysis of polymers to provide information on such parameters as degree of crystallinity, glass transition temperature, thermal stability, etc.

THERMO-MAN: See FLAMMABILITY TESTS, Thermo-Man.

THERMOPLASTIC: A term used to describe a plastic material that is permanently fusible. The term as applied to manufactured fibers describes their tendency to soften at higher temperatures.

THERMOSET: A term used to describe a plastic that, once formed, does not melt when heated.

THERMOSOL PROCESS: See DYEING, Thermal Fixation.

THERMOTROPIC POLYMER: Polymer that exhibits liquid crystal formation in melt form. In thermotropic polymers there must be a balance between having the necessary degree of molecular perfection to preserve the liquid crystal formation and the amount of imperfection to permit melting at workable temperatures. These polymers give high-modulus, highly oriented, extrusion products.

THICK-AND-THIN YARN: A novelty yarn of varying thicknesses.

THICK FILLING: See COARSE THREAD.

THIN END: See FINE END, 1.

THREAD: 1. A slender, strong strand or cord, especially one designed for sewing or other needlework. Most threads are made by plying and twisting yarns. A wide variety of thread types are in use today, e.g., spun cotton and spun polyester, core-spun cotton with a polyester filament core, polyester or nylon filaments (often bonded), and monofilament threads. 2. A general term for yarns used in weaving and knitting, as in "thread count" and "warp thread".

THREAD COUNT: 1. The number of ends and picks per inch in a woven cloth. 2. The number of wales and courses per inch in a knit fabric.